

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A jig for holding a container having a non-planar bottom that provides at least one retaining element, the retaining element providing a first cooperating interlocking surface, the jig comprising;

a support portion configured to receive and vertically support the container thereon, the support portion having at least one retaining portion providing a second cooperating interlocking surface, wherein the second cooperating interlocking surface has a shape that is complimentary to a shape of the first cooperating interlocking surface such that the second cooperating interlocking surface of the retaining portion is configured to non-rotationally ~~lock~~ interlockable with the first cooperating interlocking surface of the retaining element of the container in a cooperating relationship so as to substantially prevent relative rotation between the jig and container.

2. (Original) A jig as in claim 1, wherein the jig is in the form of a generally flat plate.

3. (Original) A jig as in claim 1, further comprising a generally annular side wall extending upwardly from the support portion.

4. (Original) A jig as in claim 1, wherein the support portion includes a support surface configured to abut a bottom portion of the container, thereby vertically supporting the container.

5. (Original) A jig as in claim 1, wherein the at least one retaining portion includes a generally downwardly extending recess formed within the support portion.

6. (Original) A jig as in claim 5, wherein the at least one retaining portion includes a plurality of generally downwardly extending recesses formed within the support portion.

7. (Original) A jig as in claim 1, wherein the at least one retaining portion includes a generally upwardly extending protrusion formed on the support portion.

8. (Original) A jig as in claim 7, wherein the at least one retaining portion includes a plurality of generally upwardly extending protrusions formed on the support portion.

9. (Original) A jig as in claim 1, wherein the at least one retaining portion includes a textured surface formed on the support portion.

10. (Original) A jig as in claim 9, wherein the textured surface is formed on the support surface.

11. (Original) A container made using a jig according to claim 1.

12. (Currently Amended) A sealing apparatus for sealing a container having a non-planar bottom that provides at least one retaining element, the retaining element providing a first cooperating interlocking surface, the apparatus comprising:

a fixture having a jig thereon;

a pressing structure, wherein

at least one of the fixture and pressing structure are movable with respect to the other in the vertical direction, and

wherein the jig includes a support portion configured to receive and vertically support the container thereon, the support portion having at least one retaining portion providing a second cooperating interlocking surface, wherein the second cooperating interlocking surface has a shape that is complimentary to a shape of the first cooperating interlocking surface such that the second cooperating interlocking surface of the retaining portion is configured to non-rotationally lock interlockable with the first cooperating interlocking surface of the retaining element of the container in a cooperating relationship so as to substantially prevent relative rotation between the jig and container.

13. (Original) A sealing apparatus as in claim 12, further comprising a piston connected to the at least one of the fixture and pressing structure so as to provide the relative vertical movement thereof.

14. (Original) A sealing apparatus as in claim 12, wherein the jig is in the form of a generally flat plate.

15. (Original) A sealing apparatus as in claim 12, wherein the jig includes a generally annular side wall extending upwardly from the support portion of the jig.

16. (Original) A sealing apparatus as in claim 12, wherein the support portion of the jig includes a support surface configured to abut a bottom portion of the container, thereby vertically supporting the container.

17. (Original) A sealing apparatus as in claim 12, wherein the at least one retaining portion includes a generally downwardly extending recess formed within the support portion of the jig.

18. (Original) A sealing apparatus as in claim 17, wherein the at least one retaining portion includes a plurality of generally downwardly extending recesses formed within the support portion.

19. (Original) A sealing apparatus as in claim 12, wherein the at least one retaining portion includes a generally upwardly extending protrusion formed on the support portion of the jig.

20. (Original) A sealing apparatus as in claim 19, wherein the at least one retaining portion includes a plurality of generally upwardly extending protrusions formed on the support portion of the jig.

21. (Original) A sealing apparatus as in claim 12, wherein the at least one retaining portion includes a textured surface formed on the support portion of the jig.

22. (Original) A sealing apparatus as in claim 21, wherein the textured surface is formed on the support surface.

23. (Original) A container made using a sealing apparatus according to claim 12.

24. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a container comprising:
forming a container body having a non-planar bottom that provides at least one retaining element, the retaining element providing a first cooperating interlocking surface;
providing a jig having a support portion configured to support the container body thereon and having a retaining portion providing a second cooperating interlocking surface, the second cooperating interlocking surface having a shape that is complimentary to a shape of the first cooperating interlocking surface such that the second cooperating interlocking surface of the retaining portion is configured to non-rotationally lock interlockable with the first cooperating interlocking surface of the retaining element of the container in a cooperating relationship;
positioning the container body relative to the jig so as to ~~effect the non-rotational lock between~~ non-rotationally interlock the first cooperating interlocking surface of the retaining element and the second cooperating interlocking surface of the retaining portion so as to substantially prevent relative rotation between the container and the jig;
positioning a lid on an open end portion of the container body; and
attaching the lid to the container body by forming a seam between a periphery of the lid and the open end portion of the container body.

25. (Original) A container made using a method according to claim 24.